IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Yoshihiko MATSUKAWA et al.

Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. NEW

Docket No. 2000-1663A

Filed December 8, 2000

IMAGE CODING APPARATUS, IMAGE DECODING APPARATUS, CHARACTER COLLATION APPARATUS, AND DATA STORAGE MEDIUM
[Corresponding to PCT/JP99/03066
Filed June 9, 1999]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Kindly amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

44. (Amended) A data storage medium containing an image processing program for making a computer perform image data processing, said image processing program being a program for making a computer perform image processing of an apparatus [defined in any of Claims 1 to 43], or a program for implementing, with a computer, the function of at least one means which constitutes an apparatus, defined in any of Claims [1 to 43] 1-12, 17-28, and 34-43.

Claim 45, line 19, after "17," delete "18, and 33" and after "17," insert -- and 18--.



